IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 20 and 23 as indicated below, and cancel claims 11 and 12 without prejudice, such that after entry of the amendment, the claims remaining under consideration read as follows:

4 1. (Once amended) A method for creating an image on a display surface of a substrate, said method comprising:

a) applying a first layer of waterfast medium to a surface of an ink-jet transparency sheet having a coating adapted to receive hydrophilic solvent-based ink to create an image on said transparency sheet, said first layer of waterfast medium being applied to the coated surface of the ink-jet transparency sheet;

A1 b) at least partially liquifying said image and coating on said ink-jet transparency sheet with a solvent;

c) placing the surface of the ink-jet transparency having the at least partially liquified image and coating in intimate contact with said display surface of said substrate for a time sufficient to transfer a portion of said image and coating from said transparency sheet to said substrate; and

d) peeling away said transparency sheet.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of applying
2 includes printing said first layer of waterfast medium on said transparency sheet with an ink-jet computer printer.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said first layer of waterfast
2 medium is a waterfast ink.

A2 7 4. (Once amended) The method of claim 5 2 further including modifying said image by applying a second layer of waterfast medium to the coated surface of the ink-jet transparency sheet.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein said first layer of waterfast medium is relatively transparent and said second layer is relatively opaque.

9. (Once amended) The method of claim 4 including applying to the coated surface of the ink-jet transparency sheet a second layer of a medium different from said first layer of waterfast medium.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said second layer of medium is non-waterfast.

11. (Once amended) The method of claim 4 including the further step of modifying said image by adding one or more additional layers of medium to said coated surface of said transparency sheet prior to said step of partially liquifying.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said first layer of waterfast medium is relatively transparent, and said display surface of said substrate has markings that would show through said first layer, further including applying at least a partial additional layer of relatively opaque medium to areas of said image to at least partially mask said markings of said display surface from showing through said image.

10. The method of claim 8 further including creating several alternate images on separate transparency sheets in accordance with step (a) and comparing the appearance of said separate sheets overlaid one at a time on said display surface prior to selecting one of said separate sheets for proceeding with said steps (b), (c), and (d).

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

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13. The method of claim 1 further including the step (e) of modifying said image by applying additional medium to said image after said transparency sheet is peeled away.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said additional medium is different from said first layer of waterfast medium.

15. The method of claim 1 including the additional step of fabricating said substrate.

20. (Once amended) A method for creating an image adapted for transfer to a display surface of a substrate, said method comprising applying a first layer of waterfast medium to a surface of an ink-jet transparency sheet having a coating adapted to receive hydrophilic solvent-based ink to create an image on said transparency sheet, said first layer of waterfast medium being applied to the coated surface of the ink-jet transparency sheet.

21. The method of claim 20 further including the steps of:

at least partially liquifying said image and coating on said ink-jet transparency sheet with a solvent applied to said image and coating on said transparency sheet;

placing the surface of the ink-jet transparency having the at least partially liquified image and coating in intimate contact with said display surface of said substrate for a time sufficient to transfer a portion of said image and coating from said transparency sheet to said substrate; and

peeling away said transparency sheet.

22. The method of claim 20 further including the steps of:

wetting the surface of the substrate with a quantity of solvent sufficient to partially liquify said image and coating;

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placing the surface of the ink-jet transparency having the image and coating in intimate contact with said display surface of said substrate for a time sufficient for the quantity of solvent on said substrate to at least partially liquify a portion of the image and coating and to transfer a portion of said image and coating from said transparency sheet to said substrate; and

peeling away said transparency sheet.

26. (Once amended) The method of claim 20 including modifying said image with additional media applied to said display surface.

REMARKS

Applicant hereby confirms the election of Group I, claims 1-15 and 20-23, made by Applicant's Counsel during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on March 12, 2002.

Claims 1-10, 13-15, and 20-23 are at issue. The claims have been amended to correct informalities and improve their form, but not to distinguish over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Applicant contends that the amended claims were clearly distinct, prior to amendment herein, from the art cited by the Examiner, and that the amendments submitted herein are made solely for further clarifying what was evident from the language of the claims as originally filed when read in conjunction with the specification and drawings.

The rejection of claim 20 under 35 USC 102(e), as anticipated by US patent number 6,153,038 to Brooker is traversed.

Independent claim 20 requires inter alia applying a first layer of waterfast medium to a surface of an ink-jet transparency sheet, with the surface of the transparency to which the first layer of waterfast medium is applied having a coating adapted to receive hydrophilic solvent-based ink, to thereby create an image on said transparency sheet. The requirement that the first layer of waterfast